REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank Examiner Richard Chang for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Jacob M. Ward, Reg. No. 56,754, during the informal telephonic interview on July 28, 2009. During the interview, an agreement was reached that the present amendments to the claims appear to overcome the prior art. Applicants thank Examiner Richard Chang for the careful consideration of the application.

Applicants have carefully studied the references cited by the Examiner and the Examiner's comments relative thereto.

Claims 17-24, 26-30, and 34 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-16, 25, and 31-33 have been cancelled.

Claims 17, 26, and 34 have been amended.

Support for the amended claims is found in the application as originally filed, for example, in FIGS. 1-8.

No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the claims in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The present invention is recited in Applicants' amended independent claims, which are reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

> 17. A cable-processing apparatus for positioning cable-ends **at an at least one cable-end processing station of the cable-processing apparatus**, the cable-ends being a leading cable-end and a trailing cable-end at opposite extents of a cable-length to be processed, comprising:
>
> **a swiveling device having a swiveling arm, said swiveling arm positioned adjacent a cutting and stripping station during a cutting and stripping of the cable-ends and the at least one cable-end processing station of the cable-processing apparatus**; and
>
> a gripper mounted at one end of said swiveling arm for holding in sequence each of the leading cable-end and the trailing cable-end of the cable-length to be processed, said swiveling arm moving said gripper from said cutting and stripping station to said at least one cable-end processing station and then away from said at least one cable-end processing station, said gripper and said swiveling arm holding and moving respectively the leading and trailing cable-ends of the cable-length from said cutting and stripping station and in position for processing by said at least one cable-end processing station; and
>
> **a cable transportation belt for holding the leading cable-end while said swiveling device is moving the trailing cable-end, said swiveling device mounted to the cable-processing apparatus either above or below the cable transportation belt.**

(Emphasis added).

26. A cable-processing machine for processing a cable into cable-lengths with a leading cable-end and a trailing cable-end at opposite extents of the cable-lengths to which crimped contacts are attached comprising:

a belt-drive for providing the cable;

a cutting and stripping station for cutting the cable-length from the cable and stripping leading and trailing ends of the cable-length to form the leading cable-end and the trailing cable-end respectively;

a pair of crimping presses for attaching a crimped contact to each of the leading and trailing cable-ends a one of the crimped contacts; and

a swiveling device having **a swiveling arm positioned adjacent said cutting and stripping station during a cutting and stripping of the cable-ends and said crimping presses, said swiveling arm having** a gripper at one end for sequentially holding the leading and trailing cable-ends in position for cutting and stripping by said cutting and stripping station and for processing by said at least one cable-end processing station, said swiveling arm moving the leading and trailing cable-ends from said cutting and stripping station to said crimping presses and away from said crimping presses; and

a cable transportation belt for holding the leading cable-end while said swiveling device is moving the trailing cable-end, said swiveling device mounted to the cable-processing apparatus either above or below the cable transportation belt.

(Emphasis added)

Applicants' invention includes a cable-processing apparatus (1) for positioning cable-ends (5.1, 5.2) at an at least one cable-end processing station (3, 3.1, 3.2) of the cable-processing apparatus (1). The cable-ends (5.1, 5.2) include a leading cable-end (5.1) and a trailing cable-end (5.2) at opposite extents of a cable-length (5.3) to be processed. The cable-processing apparatus (1) further includes a swiveling device (2) with a swiveling arm (2.1) having a gripper (2.2) mounted at one end thereof. The swiveling device (2) is positioned adjacent a cutting and stripping station (6) during a cutting and stripping of the cable-ends (5.1, 5.2). The swiveling device (2) is also positioned adjacent the at least one cable-end processing station (3, 3.1, 3.2) of the cable-processing apparatus (1). The gripper (2.2) holds in sequence each of the leading cable-end (5.1) and the trailing cable-end (5.2) of the cable-length (5.3) to be processed. The swiveling arm (2.1) moves the gripper (2.2) from the cutting and stripping station (6) to the at least one cable-end processing station (3, 3.1, 3.2), and then away from the at least one cable-end processing station (3, 3.1, 3.2). The gripper (2.2) and the swiveling arm (2.1) hold and move respectively the leading and trailing cable-ends (5.1, 5.2) of the cable-length (5.3) from said cutting and stripping station (6) and in position for processing by said at least one cable-end processing station (3, 3.1, 3.2). The invention also includes a cable transportation belt (7) for holding the leading cable-end (5.1) while the swiveling device (2) is moving the trailing cable-

end (5.2). The swiveling device (2) is mounted to the cable-processing apparatus (1) either above or below the cable transportation belt (7).

Claims 17-32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Examiner stated that the disclosure failed to provide support for "a swiveling and arm positioned adjacent a cutting and stripping station" (Claims 17 and 26) and "said gripper and said swiveling arm being a sole means for holding and moving" (Claims 17, 26, and 34); and 3). In accordance with the Examiner's suggestions during the abovementioned interview, the independent claims have been amended to recite "a swiveling device having a swiveling arm, said swiveling arm positioned adjacent a cutting and stripping station during a cutting and stripping of the cable-ends". (Emphasis added). The swiveling arm (2.1) is clearly positioned next to, or adjacent, the cutting and stripping station (6) during a cutting and stripping of the cable-ends (5.1). The phrase "being a sole means" has also been removed from the same independent claims. Accordingly, the presently amended claims comply with the written description requirement of § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 17-32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Examiner identified numerous phrases as being indefinite, stating: 1) "[i]s 'a cable-processing apparatus' referring to 'a cable-processing apparatus' or something else?" (Claim 17, line 2); 2) "[t]he number of stations in 'at least one cable-end processing station' and 'processing stations' do not match" (Claim 17, lines 5-6); and 3) "it is unclear what is being rotated" (Claim 34, lines 7-16). Attention is respectfully directed to the amendments to Claims 17 and 34. Proper antecedent basis for the term "cable-processing apparatus" is now recited at amended Claim 17, line 2. The recited number of cable-end processing stations, i.e. at least one cable-end processing station, in the cable-processing apparatus is now consistent throughout amended Claim 17. It is also clearly recited in amended Claim 34 that "said swiveling arm of said swiveling device rotates". Accordingly, the amended claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, and the rejection under § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

Claims 17-32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Conte (U.S. Patent No. 6,658,726). The rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the presently amended claims.

Conte describes a system including a cable deposit device (1) connected to a cable processing unit (2). The cable processing unit (2) includes a pair of belt drive units (5, 6). The belt drive units (5, 6) feed a pair of cables (3, 4) to a pivot head (7). The pivot head (7) supplies the leading ends of the cables (3, 4) to one or more processing stations (8, 9, 10, 11) for the purpose of stripping them and then pressing a crimp contact thereon. The cable deposit device (1) also includes a region (15) for receiving and stretching out the cables on an upper carrying side of a continuously revolving receiving conveyor belt (14). After the leading ends of the cables (3, 4) have been processed, they are ejected at high speed along two ejection axes (12, 13) into the cable deposit device (1). (Conte at col. 2, lines 32-34, and in FIG. 1). The Conte system further includes a pivot arm (21) having two cable gripping units (19, 20) provided in the cable entry region of the receiving conveyor belt (14). The pivot arm (21) grips the rear ends of the cables (3, 4) after they have been ejected into the cable deposit device (1). The pivot arm (21) supplies the rear ends of the cables (3, 4) to a stripping unit (42), and then to a unit (43) for bringing the cable ends together, and then to a double crimping unit (22). (Conte at col. 2, lines 35-62, and in FIGS. 1 and 8).

The cited Conte art does not disclose, teach, or fairly suggest each and every limitation of the present independent claims, namely: 1) "a gripper mounted at one end of said swiveling arm for holding in sequence each of the leading cable-end and the trailing cable-end of the cable-length to be processed" (Claim 17); 2) "said swiveling arm having a gripper at one end for sequentially holding the leading and trailing cable-ends in position for cutting and stripping by said cutting and stripping station and for processing by said at least one cable-end processing station" (Claim 26); and 3) "a cable transportation belt for holding the leading cable-end while said swiveling device is moving the trailing cable-end, said swiveling device mounted to the cable-processing apparatus either above or below the cable transportation belt" (Claims 17 and 26).

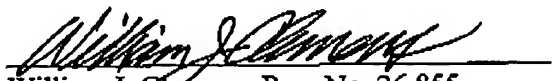
As disclosed by Conte at col. 2, lines 48-55, the gripping units (19, 20) only grip the rear ends of the cables (3, 4). The Conte gripping units (19, 20) do not hold in sequence each of a leading cable-end and a trailing cable-end of a cable-length to be processed. Indeed, the Conte gripping units (19, 20) never hold a leading end of the cables (3, 4), which are instead ejected at high speed along ejection axes (12, 13) past the gripping units (19, 20), and into the cable deposit

device (1) so that the rear ends of the cables (3, 4) may be gripped by the gripping units (19, 20). Accordingly, Claims 17 and 26, and claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, are patentable over the cited Conte art.

Moreover, the pivot arm (21) of Conte with the cable gripping units (19, 20) is clearly laterally disposed to one side of the conveyor belt (14). (See Conte in FIG. 1). Conte does not disclose a swiveling device that is mounted to the cable-processing apparatus either above or below the cable transportation belt, as recited in the presently amended claims. For at least this further reason, the rejection of Claims 17-24, 26-30, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the presently amended claims clearly define Applicants' invention and distinguish it from the art of record. Reconsideration of the application is requested and a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney at (419) 874-1100.

Respectfully submitted,



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